

Special Railway Fund

1496. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up special Railway Fund, by imposing an additional duty of 50 paise per litre on high-speed diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received their share from Central Road Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the projects on which this amount has been spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Railways have received Rs. 200 crores in 1999-2000, Rs. 300 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 300 crores in 2001-2002 from the Central Road Fund.

(e) The receipts from this fund are being utilised for construction of Road overbridges/underbridges and also for manning of unmanned level crossings. Both on-going works as well as new works are financed from the receipts from this fund.

Crime and Accidents in South Central Railway

1497. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Central Railway is planning to spend Rs. 3 crore for providing passenger amenities such as sheds, drinking water facility and extension of platforms;

(b) whether the Railways had already completed extension work of 8 platforms and work on 30 other platforms was in progress;

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(c) whether accidents on the South Central Railway are on the increase and 56 accidents took place, mostly due to human failure;

(d) if so, whether crimes in Railway have also been on the increase; and

(e) the steps being taken to check crimes and accidents in Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) South Central Railway has been allotted Rs. 11.58 crore for passenger amenity works during 2001-2002.

(b) Out of 30 stations where extension of platform to accommodate 22/24 coach trains have been sanctioned/in progress, work at 12 stations has been completed and the work is nearing completion at 7 stations. Work at remaining 11 stations is in progress.

(c) 48 consequential accidents took place during 2000-2001 out of which 37 were due to human failure. The number of consequential accidents on South Central Railway is more or less static.

(d) There has been a slight increase in crime over the South Central Railway.

(e) Following steps have been taken to check accidents and crime on Railways:

(I) Steps taken to prevent accidents:

(i) Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark track circuiting on entire 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'D Spl.' Routes where speed is more than 75 kmph have been completed. Remaining portion of the work is under progress.

(ii) Modification of the signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.

(iii) A pilot project of AWs on trial basis for Tughlakabad-Mathura section of Central Railway has been sanctioned.

The tender for the same has been invited.

- (iv) Last vehicle check by Axle Counter have been introduced on over 150 block sections and is being progressively added.
- (v) State of the art technology of Digital Mobile Train Radio Communication has been sanctioned on some important sections for providing duplex radio communication between driver/guard and control.
- (vi) Walkie-talkie sets have been provided to Drivers and Guards of all trains for faster and better means of communication.
- (vii) Drivers and Guards are also being progressively provided with LED based electronic flashing lamps which have better visibility than the conventional kerosene lit hand signal lamps.
- (viii) There has been progressive increase in use of tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance. Also, Track Renewal Trains are being used.
- (ix) For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometers are being used progressively.
- (x) For detection of rail fractures/weld failures, adequate double rail Ultrasonic Flaw detectors have been procured. Now Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Cars are being procured.
- (xi) Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.
- (xii) Routine Over Hauling Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the

axles so as to prevent cases of cold breakage of axles.

- (xiii) Funds being received from the diesel cess will be used for safety related works pertaining to level crossings.
- (xiv) Whistle Boards/speed breakers and road signs have been provided at unmanned level crossings.
- (xv) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.
- (xvi) Level crossings having heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.
- (xvii) Steps are being taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.
- (xviii) Periodical Safety Audit of different Divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from Zonal Headquarters has been introduced.
- (xix) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernised including use of Simulators for training of drivers.
- (xx) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash courses also.
- (xxi) Periodical safety drives are Conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff and road users.
- (xxii) A pilot project of Anti Collision Device (ACD) has been sanctioned for Northeast Frontier Railway. Trial of prototype ACD equipment has been started. After successful completion of this pilot project, a decision would be taken for its application on other routes of Indian Railways.
- (xxiii) Stringent penalty to the extent of dismissal/removal from service is being imposed on officials causing serious accidents.

(II) Steps taken to prevent Crimes:

“Policing” being a State Subject, prevention of crime on Railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Railways have taken the following steps to check crimes:

- (i) Accommodation is provided to the Government Railways Police personnel for escorting the trains. Accommodation also provided to the Mobile Police Stations.
- (ii) Announcements through Public Address System and CCTV are made at important Railway stations to alert the travelling public against theft etc.
- (iii) Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and the trains by Railway personnel.
- (iv) Regular Coordination Meetings are held between the Railways and the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security to the passengers.
- (v) Exchange of intelligence on crime and criminology is done between the Railways and the Police Authorities.

Examination for Railway Engineering Services

1498. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the candidates recommended by UPSC for Engineering Services Examination, 1999 have been given posting or training orders;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what was the need for conducting subsequent examination in 2000 when candidates who qualified Engineering Examination during 1999 have not been given posting orders; and

(d) what is the present position of vacant posts to be filled up through UPSC Engineering Services Examination?